

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02301 051235Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /074 W
-----109531 051238Z /53

P R 051023Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6280
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
JMEMBASSY GABORONE 1729
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ZA
SUBJ: HOME MINISTER MILNER'S DISMISSAL: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LUSAKA 2256 AND 2279

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL DEVOTES ITS AUGUST 5
EDITORIAL TO JUSTIFYING MILNER'S DISMISSAL AND HINTS AT THE
STRONG POSSIBILITY OF HIS REHABILITATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. KAUNDA IS PRAISED IN THE EDITORIAL FOR HIS CONSTANT CON-
CERN TO KEEP STANDARDS HIGH IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS
LED HIM TO MAKE PAINFUL DECISIONS. THIS WEEK HE "DECIDED TO
MAKE PUBLIC HIS SPIRITUAL AGONY IN THE HOPE THE NATION WOULD
SHARE WITH HIM HIS IMMENSE PROBLEM THAT HAD BEEN CONSUMING
HIM INSIDE." REASONABLY SATISFIED THAT HIS EFFORTS TO RID
ZAMBIA OF THE EVILS OF CORRUPTION, HIS MIND WAS NOT QUITE AT
PEACE, FOR THERE WERE REPORTS CIRCULATING ABOUT HIS PERSONAL
FRIEND WHO WAS LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION. MILNER'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02301 051235Z

DISMISSAL HAS GIVEN RISE TO "BIZARRE" SPECULATION--HIS FIRING
AND THOSE OF OTHERS IN THE PAST HAVE CREATED ENOUGH ENEMIES
FOR THE PARTY TO CREATE A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE
OPPOSITION; AND HAS LED TO DIVISIONS IN THE NATION AND
IMPLANTED FEAR IN ALL THOSE WHO SERVE THE NATION.

2. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT. AS A FRIEND

OF THE PRESIDENT ANY ADVERSE REPORTS ABOUT MILNER, IF LCT
ALONG, "WOULD DO MORE HARM TO THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND
TO THE CAUSE OF THE NATION." IT IS IN MILNER'S INTEREST
THAT ALL THE "FILTH WHICH HAS BEEN FLOATED BY HIS ENEMIES
IS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACES SO THAT IT CAN BE GLEANED TO KNOW
IF IT IS INDEED SOCIAL FILTH." IF HE IS CLEARED, "AS INDEED
ALL FRIENDS EXPECT HIM TO BE, HE WILL EMERGE STRONG, CLEAN,
PURE AND MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS ENEMIES WHO PLOTTED HIS FALL."
MILNER IS ASKED TO KEEP AWAY FROM "THAT LEGION OF ENEMIES OF
THE PARTY DURING HIS PERIOD OF MEDITATION AND REBIRTH.

COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE EDITORIAL WAS EITHER INSPIRED BY
OR WRITTEN BY SOMEONE IN STATE HOUSE. THE "WHAT HAVE WE
WROUGHT" TONE OF THE EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY A GENUINE RE-
FLECTION OF KAUNDA'S FEELING THAT HE MAY HAVE ACTED WITHOUT
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF FIRING MILNER.
THESE CONSEQUENCES, AS CORRECTLY CITED IN THE EDITORIAL,
ARE SPECULATION THAT NEW ENEMIES HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR THE
PARTY, AND FEAR AMONG HIGH OFFICIALS THAT THEY MAY BE NEXT
ON THE LIST. ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE HAS BEEN THE IMPLANTING
OF THE IDEA THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SURROUNDED BY MEN WHOM
HE CANNOT TRUST. THE EDITORIAL COMES CLOSE TO SAYING THE
FIRING MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE AND THAT MILNER WILL IN THE
END BE REHABILITATED. IN SO DOING, THERE IS AN OBVIOUS
ATTEMPT TO LESSEN THE POLITICAL DAMAGE ALREADY ONE BY THE
FIRING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02301 051235Z

LOW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA02301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770281-0311
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770893/aaaadavz.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5f86f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 2256
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1699863
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOME MINISTER MILNER'S DISMISSAL: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, ZA, (MILNER, AARON MICHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5f86f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009